

Revelation 2

Though the churches mentioned in Revelation chapters 2 and three contain a message for all churches of all ages, we have to acknowledge that, as most theologians suggest, they may refer to seven “church ages”. With this in mind, you will find a short note at the end of each letter to the seven church. You might want to study this aspect of church history yourself.

1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks.

To the Church of Ephesus the Lord describes Himself as the One who holds the seven stars (angels) – the One who inspires and authorises them regarding their ministry to the church. He is also present in each of the seven churches.

Ephesus was a city dedicated to the worship of Diana (see Acts 19). The apostle Paul ministered there for three years, after which Timothy pastored the church for a year (1 Timothy 1:3).

1 Timothy 1:3 *As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine.*

From his prison cell in Rome, Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians in 61 AD.

2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars.

The Lord Jesus now lists several good and bad points regarding the Church at Ephesus:-

The Good Points

a) They were working hard for the Lord. This probably means that they were diligent in all aspects of Christian ministry.

b) They laboured on despite personal difficulties.

c) They endured even when they were being assaulted by those of this wicked city – i.e. pagans and idolaters. They had stood firm in the Lord for over 40 years.

d) They had no place in the Church for wicked men, those who attended Christian worship but also accommodated the world and false religion. This means that they did not compromise with the paganism all around them.

e) They did not accept all who claimed to be preachers of righteousness but judged each one according to what the word of God said (see Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 John 4:1).

Acts 17:11 [These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.](#)

1 Thessalonians 5:21 [Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.](#)

1 John 4:1 [Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.](#)

Paul had warned the Ephesians church that false teachers would attempt to corrupt them (Acts 20:28-31; see also 2 Corinthians 11:13).

Acts 20:28-31 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

2 Corinthians 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

Notice that the church of Ephesus is commended for its intolerance. No doubt the modern, lukewarm church would take issue with the Lord over this. God commends the church for being intolerant, and using discrimination against people who profess to be something they are not. Intolerance isn't the same as bigotry when it's established in Scripture.

f) By this method they were able to spot false teachers a mile off.

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

g) They stood their ground in Christ regardless of how many were giving themselves over to unrighteousness and compromise.

h) Their patience (endurance) is remarked on again. They were leaving everything firmly in the hands of the Lord – they had patient trust.

i) They laboured for Christ's sake and refused to give up no matter how hard it became to stand. They had taken up the Cross and continued to follow Christ even in the midst of intense persecution and suffering (Matthew 16:24).

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

The Bad Points

a) They had left their first love. Notice they they had “left” rather than “lost” their “first love” for Christ. This infers that they had chosen something else as the passion of their hearts. Paul had commended them for their love thirty years earlier (Ephesians 1:15-16).

Ephesians 1:15-16 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers.

Sadly this Love had soured somewhat. This may mean that they had become ritualistic – that everything they did was out of duty rather than from a love for God. Their love for God was growing cold through religion.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

b) They had fallen (backslidden). Backsliding happens when a church gets itself involved with false doctrine, religion, or become content with routine.

The Remedy

a) Remember. They needed to reconsider their standing before God, to look back and see how far they had come away from God’s

grace. The word “remember” here means “continually remember” or “never forget”.

b) Repent. A backsliding church needs to repent of the way it is going – it needs to get right with God as a congregation, not only as individuals. They needed to increase their love for Christ.

c) Return. Get back to the beginning. Get back to the place where it is known we walked away from God. By return or reversing, they will renew their love for Christ.

The Warning

a) They must act quickly because the Lord certainly will! There was no time for putting it off for another moment, because God cannot put off His judgement any longer.

b) They would be removed as a church if they did not repent. Their spiritual light would be extinguished and the ‘star’ would no longer minister within them. Immediate repentance was a must. Otherwise their usefulness to Christ would quickly come to an end.

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.

Major Good point

They rejected false doctrines and practices of the Nicolaitanes (ritualists and clergy-class / priest-craft) and the name implies “suppressors of the people”. There is no recorded sect with this name, so it is likely to be a generic term for a class of apostates. The Nicolaitanes condoned compromise with the pagan cults. The Ephesian church resisted this and so were commended by the Lord. This was one thing in their favour that was delaying the coming judgement.

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

The Rewards

Every believer must listen to and be guided by the Holy Spirit since He inspired the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:21).

2 Timothy 3:15-17 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

He can only lead us into the truth (John 15:16; 16:13).

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

a) To those who listen to the message (in all the churches) will receive God's eternal reward. This reward is only available to the overcomer – the one who bucks the downward trend of religion. Overcoming is essentially the same as faithfulness and obedience. As believers we are meant to be "more than conquerors" (Romans 8:37-39).

Romans 8:37-39 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers,

nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Bible urges us to overcome evil (1 John 2:13) by our faith in Christ (1 John 5:4).

1 John 2:13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

The martyrs of Revelation 12:11 are overcomers too because they maintained their faith in Christ.

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

b) They will receive spiritual food of everlasting life here and would enjoy the glories of God in Heaven. Whilst on earth they would know the eternal truth that sets the soul free. The Tree of Life reminds us of Eden from which man was cast out. Thankfully we have access to the one in the New Jerusalem which is situated in Paradise (Heaven), which interestingly enough means “garden of delight” (Revelation 22:2).

Revelation 22:2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Note: This church represents clearly the period from 33 AD to 200 AD, which includes the Apostles, and then the “Church Fathers”. This church period emphasised Doctrine, and labouring for Christ.

8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

Smyrna was situated about 35 miles north of Ephesus and was a very prosperous commercial centre in the Roman Empire. The Christians here were persecuted by almost everyone because they refused to declare that Caesar was lord.

The Lord Jesus Christ gives a description of Himself in this verse. This three-fold description is one that the church of our day needs to remember. It is an important part of Christology.

- a) His Eternal Nature – First and Last – the Eternal God. He has and will always exist.
- b) His Messiahship – He was crucified for our sins.
- c) The Risen Lord – His glorious resurrection.

9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Good Points

- a) They worked hard for the Gospel’s sake. This was not salvation by works (which all false religions promote), but working as a fruit of being saved. They were simply doing what Christ expects from all His churches. He sees and is aware of the circumstances of all believers.

b) They were persecuted for their Christian faith in Smyrna, but this did not stop them from serving the Lord – it probably gave them even greater determination to get the the message of the Gospel out to their city.

c) They were not a wealthy congregation by any means, yet they used what they had to advance the truth. In God's eyes they were spiritually rich and were laying up treasure in Heaven (Matthew 6:19-20).

Matthew 6:19-20 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.

d) They stood firm even when being opposed by the Jews and pagans in the city. The Jews especially hated Christ and thought that they were doing God's will by persecuting Christians. They were continually blaspheming His holy name. In reality they were on the pay roll of Satan – doing his business. They may have been Jews by lineage, but they were far from being the children of Abraham. Their religion was false, therefore they had the nature of Satan. It is possible that these "Jews" were Gentile converts to Judaism, and very often such people can be extremely zealous to please their masters.

Bad Points

There are no bad points mentioned regarding this church.

10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Rewards

They were obviously fearful from a physical point of view, so the

Lord encourages them to be fearless in the face of even worse persecution. The devil was doing his utmost to destroy the church and thus extinguish its witness. The whole Church, and not just the one in Smyrna, would suffer extreme persecution under ten Roman emperors: Nero, Domitian, Trajan, Hadrian, Septimus Severus, Maximin, Decius, Valerian, Aurelian and Diocletian.

a) These persecuted believers would receive the Crown of Life if they maintained their faith in the face of such onslaught. Their faith in Christ would dispel the fear of imprisonment and death. Tradition tells us that Smyrna's second pastor, Polycarp (one of John's converts and students), was burned alive in AD 155 for not worshipping the emperor.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

b) The first death is physical, but the second is eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire. Faith in Christ is the guarantee that believers will never experience the second death.

John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believe thou this?

The overcomer may indeed die at the hands of his tormentors, but that is all that can happen. Dead but not destroyed. The true believer has no fear of death and Hell. We are free from the fires of the eternal lake of fire and brimstone.

Note: The Smyrna period lasted from 200 to 325 AD, and consisting of ten official Roman persecutions against the Christian Church. This is the “martyrs” Church.

12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

Pergamos (Pergamum) was once the capital city of the Asian province of the Roman Empire. It had a huge library containing more than 200,000 books.

The Lord is seen with the sharp two-edged sword in His hand. This is an obvious reference to the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12; Revelation 19:19-21).

Ephesians 6:17 **The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**

Hebrews 4:12 **For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

We must also include the idea of the Sword of Judgement. The reason for this is because this church had become heretical and needed to be judged and disciplined.

Revelation 19:19-21 **And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.**

13 I know thy works and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

Good Points

a) They worked for the Lord in a very difficult location. It seemed that Pergamos was the very headquarters of Hell on earth. This was due to the high level of satanic and occultic practices in the area. It was also home to the temple of the god Asclepius whose image was of a serpent, just like Satan (Genesis 3:1; 2 Corinthians 11:3).

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

It is said that the Throne of Zeus (probably the largest altar in the world at that time) stood on a hill overlooking the city. Since the population worshipped Caesar as a god, we can see just how steeped Pergamos was in false, demonic religion. It is believed that the priests of Ba'al and other gods moved to the area after the Persians captured Babylon.

b) They held fast the name of Christ as the only way of salvation.

c) They remained faithful to Christ and did not deny Him even when suffering severe persecution for not participating in the pagan festivities. This was seen as being disloyal to the state. They had seen the death of fellow Christians but kept their faith nevertheless. Tradition says that Antipas was roasted to death inside a brass bull

placed over flames. This method of killing victims was in fact part of the pagan sacrificial system and copied from ancient child sacrifice practices.

14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

Bad Points

a) They fellowshipped with false teachers and prophets. They even allowed them into the Church of Christ! The false teachers were laying snares that would eventually trap them in immorality, idolatry and intermarriage (Numbers 22-25; 31).

By intermarrying with the Moabite women, Israel fell to the pagan deities of Moab.

15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.

b) They also allowed the clergy-class to rule their thinking instead of being guided by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. Gnostic teachers (the Faith Teachers of the day) were corrupting them. As stated previously, the Nicolaitanes saw nothing wrong with compromising with false religion. They were the interfaith ecumenists of their day.

16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

The Remedy

a) Repent. They needed to get rid of these false teachers and doctrines. If they did not then Christ would act against them with the two-edged sword.

b) Do it quickly. They must act quickly because Jesus would act quickly. Do they really want to find the Lord fighting against them? They must separate from falsehood. Did they really want Jesus to fight (war) against them?

17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

The Rewards

a) Hidden Manna = The spiritual food of God instead of the corrupt servings of the false teachers. Not the food offered to false gods, but the spiritual sustenance given by the True God (John 6:33, 35, 41, 48, 51).

John 6:33,35,41, 48, 51 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. [35] And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. [41] The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. [48] I am that bread of life. [51] I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

b) A New Name on a white stone. White stones were sometimes given to winners of games so that they could gain admittance into the celebratory feast. This would be proof of their citizenship in Heaven. Therefore it needed individual members of this church to get right with God before it was too late.

Note: The Pergamos period lasts from 325 to 500 AD, and marks the rise of the Roman Catholic Church. The marriage of “Church”

and “State” came about at the counsel of Nicea in 325 AD under Constantine.

18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass.

Thyatira was an important commercial hub in the Roman Empire. It's main industries were wool and dye (Acts 16:14).

Acts 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us : whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

The letter to this church is the longest of the seven. Jesus describes Himself as “the Son of God”. This title not only made a claim to Messiahship, but also to His equality with God. The title has its obvious meaning, but it should be seen as “of the same order” too.

He comes before this church as the Searcher of Hearts. His eyes burn deep into every soul and mind (1 Corinthians 3:13).

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

He stands as the pure and unchanging Lord, as indicated by the fine brass or burnished bronze. His word is firmly established. Christ's Kingdom is firmly established (unlike the kingdom of iron and clay.)

19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

Good Points

a) They laboured for God. They were a church which believed and lived the Good News. These good works were a result of their ongoing commitment to Christ.

b) Charity. True Christian love amongst each other.

c) Service. They were willing to be servants of Christ and to each other. This speaks of their humility and meekness.

d) Faith. Their faith was manifest. They really lived what they believed. They were not hypocrites.

e) Works. This maybe seen as their humanitarian service to the world. It is possible that this kind of activity was overdone at the cost of the spiritual. Christianity today has become just another humanitarian organisation instead of the vessel God uses to spread the Good News. These works are commendable but can never save the soul.

20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

Bad Points

They allowed a false prophetess to minister in the Church. This woman (a Jezebel) was seeking to introduce idolatry and immorality. Queen Jezebel, wife of Ahab, in the days of Elijah, introduced Ba'al worship of a grand scale into Israel (2 Kings 9:22; 1 Kings 16:30-33).

2 Kings 9:22 And it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, Is it peace, Jehu? And he answered, What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?

1 Kings 16:30-32 And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord above all that were before him. And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

She is a fitting illustration of what was happening in Thyatira. This symbolism is a fine portrayal of the Roman Catholic Church and the Vatican (the harlot). It is also possible that feminism is referred to here, especially that which leads to goddess worship and pagan earth cults. This self-styled prophetess taught that obedience was necessary, so she downgraded truth and separation.

21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

The Lord gave this harlot system time to repent, but she did not. She loved her formalism and idolatry more than Christ. We should notice that there was a certain amount of Christianity about her to make her acceptable to the Thyatira Church.

22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

The Remedy

The Lord Himself would deal with the harlot / false prophetess / false teacher. The victims of false teachers are not considered innocent by Christ; notice “her”, “them” and “they”. Both the deceiver and the deceived will suffer the same punishment for refusing Christ. The Thyatira type churches in the Last Days will be full of people who are not born-again, and as a result will not be caught up in the Rapture, but will enter the Great Tribulation.

23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

All who follow false doctrine will experience the Second Death – eternal separation from God in the Lake of Fire. This is meant as a warning to all the churches of Christ in all ages, for the Lord knows what is going on in every one of them. Each congregation and its individual members are accountable to the Lord for what they have or have not done (Psalm 7:9; Proverbs 24:12).

Psalm 7:9 Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins.

Proverbs 24:12 If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it ? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it ? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?

Each person who follows false doctrine will be judged accordingly (Matthew 16:27; Romans 2:6; Revelation 20:12).

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Romans 2:6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the

depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

The Rewards

a) These rewards are only available to the overcomer. These are they that have separated themselves from false teachers and false doctrines. All false doctrines are part of Satan's schemes, lies and deceits that entrap the believer who will not stay in the truth. The 'Depths of Satan' may refer to the secret, mystical doctrines of the Gnostics which always led to immorality, idolatry and other gross wickedness.

b) The fact that the Lord speaks of putting no other burden upon them reveals just how severe a time they were already undergoing. The intensity of persecution caused some to compromise, but the Lord encourages them to stand firm. In certain ages it takes all the Church's strength to stand against the invasion of false teachers and prophets.

25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

This is why the Lord commands them to hold fast to the purity of the true word until He returns. This speaks of the imminency of His return.

26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

c) The overcomer (conqueror) will be given authority to govern with Christ in His Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 20:6; 1 Corinthians 6:2-3; 2 Timothy 2:12).

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

1 Corinthians 6:2-3 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

2 Timothy 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him : if we deny him, he also will deny us.

It is His works we must do not ours (see :19 & :26), for it seems that believers that do not remain faithful will not fully participate in Christ's Millennial Reign.

27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

The overcomer will rule over the nations that exist during the 1000 year reign of Christ on this present earth. The government will be under the direction of the Lord Jesus Christ and will be one of absolute righteousness and justice (Psalm 2:9).

Psalm 2:9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

All faithful believers will have authority under Christ.

28 And I will give him the morning star.

d) The overcomer will be given the 'Morning Star'. This probably means that they will receive spiritual light and understanding that comes from the person of Christ. Jesus is the Morning Star (Revelation 22:16).

Revelation 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

Believers receive the fullness of that which they received in part at salvation when they see the Lord face to face (2 Peter 1:19).

2 Peter 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.

29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

This message is for all the church of every age until Christ returns. Are we willing to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to us through the Book of Revelation (and the other 65 books of the Bible)?

Note: The Thyatira period lasts from 500 to 1000 AD which is the heart of the “Dark” ages, and represents the era of Rome’s persecution of true believers.